

# The Church and Its Mission

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**The Big Idea: You should partner with the Church in its mission.**

## **Introduction**

Have you ever been church shopping? If you've ever moved, or there was another circumstance that meant you needed to find a new church, you know how difficult it can be. The very term "church shopping" makes it sound like church is all about you and your preferences. We have options and we want to choose the one that is best for us and our family. And, of course, church should be good for you and your family. But that same attitude can easily lead to a misunderstanding about the nature of the church. You may find yourself attending week to week and critiquing what happens, but otherwise unengaged. It can lead us to behave like church is a performance on the weekends, something that we attend.

Today, we're considering the Church and its mission in order to understand from the Scripture what the nature of the church is and why we do what we do.

If you are a genuine believer in Christ, you are an integral part of the church and therefore, you should partner with the church in its mission. Let's look at three aspects of ministry that will enable you to do that.

### **1. You can worship in holiness. (ministry to God)**

The first aspect of ministry in the church is directed toward God: worship.

1 Peter 2:4-5; 1 Peter 2:15; Revelation 19:7-8; Hebrews 12:14

Our lives and our church is to be set apart to God, lives of worship, a people that bring glory to God, that magnify Him and His ways before others.

### **2. You can build up other believers. (ministry to believers)**

All of us want to belong to a group that we can assume has our best interests at heart. In the Church, there is something beyond the typical measure of popularity that should create a genuine sense of belonging.

1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Corinthians 12:21-26; Ephesians 4:15-16

The mission of the Church, not just a building or an organization, but the *people* of God, is discipleship: building each other up toward Christ.

### **3. You can push the proclamation.**

Jesus left His Church here to proclaim the good news that He is Lord. God has given us power through the Holy Spirit to fulfill this mission.

Matthew 28:19; Matthew 24:14

Since we desire to see the return of Christ, to know His reign of righteousness and justice, to see God put all His enemies under His feet, then we should be about God's business of proclaiming the Good News.

### **Conclusion**

Worship means glorifying God, and what greater way to glorify Him than telling others about His greatness? We're building up the Body of Christ, but for what, unless it is to be representatives of Him to the world? All these aspects of ministry that you should partner with are interrelated.

These three aspects of ministry are how we describe our local church's mission: *"Bethany exists to glorify God by advancing the good news about Jesus, (that's proclamation) so that lives are transformed as they are filled with the Spirit, marked by baptism, connected in community, (that's discipleship) and mature in worship."* And you are here so we can fulfill that mission together. God put you here for that.